

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-88 (Cancelled)

89. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting B lymphocyte proliferation in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a composition that comprises a ligand binding fragment of a soluble form of a ztnF4 receptor, wherein the fragment soluble-ztnF4 receptor binds ztnF4.

Claims 90-101 (Cancelled).

102. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 89, wherein the soluble form of the ztnF4tnf4 receptor comprises a fusion protein that consists of a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and the second portion are joined by a peptide bond, wherein the first portion of the fusion protein comprises a ligand binding fragment of an extracellular domain of a ztnF4 receptor, and wherein the second portion of the fusion protein is an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the soluble form of the ztnF4 receptor comprises multimeric proteins comprising one or more polypeptide fusions.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the soluble form of the ztnF4 receptor comprises dimeric proteins comprising one or more polypeptide fusions.

107. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 102, wherein the ztnF4 receptor is the transmembrane activator and calcium-modulator and cyclophilin ligand-interactor (TACI) polypeptide, wherein the TACI polypeptide has an amino acid sequence consisting amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 108, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107, wherein the soluble form of the ztnF4 receptor comprises multimeric proteins comprising one or more polypeptide fusions.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 110, wherein the soluble form of the ztnF4 receptor comprises dimeric proteins comprising one or more polypeptide fusions.

Claims 112–116 Withdrawn

117. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the ztnF4 receptor is the transmembrane activator and calcium-modulator and cyclophilin ligand-interactor (TACI) polypeptide, wherein the TACI polypeptide has an amino acid sequence consisting amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

118. (New) The method of claim 117, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

119. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.

120. (New) The method of claim 117, wherein the soluble form of the ztnF4 receptor comprises multimeric proteins comprising one or more polypeptide fusions.

121. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the soluble form of the ztnF4 receptor comprises dimeric proteins comprising one or more polypeptide fusions.